GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2614
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
TELEPHONE SERVICES TO VILLAGES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where the private sector institutions were assigned the work of providing telephone facilities both in urban and rural areas ;

(b) the number of villages in each State where these institutions have provided telephone facilities till December 31, 2001;

(c) whether any of these companies have violated the tender agreement of providing 10 per cent of the total connections to the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action the Government have taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) The requisite information is enclosed as ANNEXURE-I.

(b) The requisite information is enclosed as ANNEXURE-II.

(c) & (d): These companies have not provided connections in villages as per the terms and conditions of the licence. Government has recovered Liquidated Damage (LD) charges for their delay in performance and made it clear that their committed performance obligations cannot be diluted in any case. Government has asked them to complete the unfulfilled committed roll out obligations by December 2002 against submission of Additional Performance Bank Guarantees and Deed of Guarantees. Further, Government has already taken appropriate steps to resolve their problems.

ANNEXURE-I

STATE-WISE LIST OF PRIVATE LICENSEES FOR PROVISION OF BASIC TELEPHONE SERVICE.

S.No. Name of Circle Name of the private licensees

01. Andaman & Nicobar Island M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
02 Andhra Pradesh M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd, +
M/s Reliance Communications Ltd
03. Assam NIL
04. Bihar M/s Reliance Communications Ltd
05. Delhi M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.,
M/s Reliance Communications Ltd,
M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
06. Gujarat M/s Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd., +
M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
07. Haryana M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.,
M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
08. Himachal Pradesh M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
09. Jammu & Kashmir NIL
10. Karnataka M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.,
M/s Reliance Communications Ltd,
M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
11. Kerala M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
12. Madhya Pradesh M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd., +
M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
13. Maharashtra M/s Hughes Tele.com India Ltd.+
M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
14. North East NIL
15. Orissa M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
16. Punjab M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. +
M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
17. Rajasthan M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd., +
M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
18. Tamilnadu M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.,
M/s Reliance Communications Ltd
M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
19. Uttar Pradesh-West M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
20. Uttar Pradesh _ East M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.
21. West Bengal M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.

+ The telephone facilities in urban and rural areas under theses six licence agreements were to be provided in terms of quantified number of Direct Exchange Lines and Village Public Telephones voluntarily committed for provision by the said private licensees.

ANNEXURE-II

PROVISION OF VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONES (VPTs) BY PRIVATE LICENSEES

SlNo	Licensee and Licensed Circle	Effective Date ofLicence.	Committed targets + for VPTs in firstThree years (as per obligations underLicence Agreement) I Year in 1st 3 years	II Year	III Year upto 31st December 2001	Total No. of committed VPTs	No. of VPTs actually provided
1	M/s Tata Teleservices(Andhra Pr.)	30.9.1997	9635(by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		9635	15
2	M/s Reliance Telecom(Gujarat)	30.9.1997	8635 (by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		8635	Nil
3	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. (Punjab)	30.9.1997	5442(by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		5442	Nil

4 M/s Hughes Tele.com (India) Limited.(Maharashtra)	30.9.1997	4000(by 30.9.1998)	21760(by 30.9.99) Uncovered by 30.9.99	No village was to be left	25760	103
5 M/s Bharti Telenet(Madhya Pr.)	30.9.1997	5500(by 30.9.1998)	5500(by 30.9.99)	5500(by 30.9.2000)	16500	348
6 M/s Shyam Telelink(Rajasthan)	04.3.1998	7439(by 04.3.1999)	10629(by 4.3.2000)	13766(by 4.3.2001)	31834[36727]++	209
Total		40651	37889	19266	97806	675

+ Translated into absolute terms based on bid/tender documents keeping in view the committed targets for Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and the figure for number of uncovered villages indicated in the tender.

++ The total number of uncovered villages in Rajasthan Service area is only 31834 as against the licensee`s commitment of 36727

As reported by the licensees.